

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The Mexico Program

The North American Wetlands

Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and partnerships to carry out wetland conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



Accomplishments

Since 1991, more than 1,180 partners have been involved in 278 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects in Mexico. Partners have matched grant funds more than two-to-one, tripling the impact on the ground. Grant and matching funds support a wide range of conservation activities in Mexico, including projects aiming to:

- protect, restore, or enhance wetlands and other migratory bird habitats throughout the country;
- create or strengthen conservation-stewardship attitudes within many local communities through environmental education programs;



Marbled Godwit. Credit: Roger Baker/
USFWS Volunteer



Redhead Credit: Neil Mishler/USFWS

- enhance Mexican conservation professionals' capabilities in natural resource management through various technical or capacity-building training programs; and

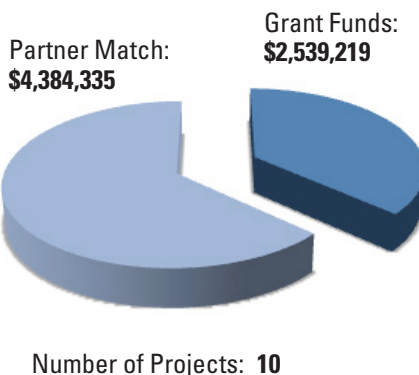
- advance the conservation community's understanding of bird populations and habitats through monitoring and sustainable use initiatives.

The Process

Once a year, applicants submit project proposals both to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird

Habitat Conservation and Mexico's Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of Wildlife (SEMARNAT-DGVS), the Service's counterpart in Mexico. Based on their longstanding partnership, the offices collaborate on the preliminary review of each proposal. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, which reviews, ranks, and recommends projects to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final funding approval. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved projects.

2014 Grants



Program Totals since 1991

Grant Funding: \$48,187,000

Matching Funds: \$107,684,000

Projects: 278

Mexican States: 31

Acres Affected: 3,252,000

Project Highlights

In 2013, approved projects will invest more than \$2 million in federal funds in six Mexican states, including:

- \$239,703 to conserve habitat for 15 percent of the bird populations that arrive in Mexico each winter. This project will enhance 1,609 acres of freshwater wetlands adjacent to the Laguna Madre on the “La Reforma” ranch and implement a 35-year conservation agreement. (Ducks Unlimited of Mexico)
- \$329,218 to establish a tidal pumping system to allow for restoration of 1,729 acres of the Las Cabras Lagoon; restore 3.41 miles of natural canals, and benefit over 3,953 acres of habitat. (Pronatura Northeast)
- \$355,430 to protect 4,607 acres of the Los Corrales Ranch through a conservation agreement, as well as enhance 306 acres of freshwater wetlands, and restore 1.25 miles of the Arroyo del Tigre. (Pronatura Northeast)
- \$290,864 to protect 5,530 acres and restore 321 acres of wetlands. It will also enhance 279 acres as buffer and refuge areas. (Pronatura Mexico)



The Laguna Madre, critical habitat for many wintering waterfowl. Credit: P. Thorpe/USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Wayne MacCallum (*Chair*), Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Terry Steinwand (*Vice Chair*), North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mary Pope Hutson, Land Trust Alliance
David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever
Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Keith Ouchley (*Alternate*), The Nature Conservancy of Louisiana
Mark Elsbree (*Ex Officio*), The Conservation Fund
Glenn Olson (*Ex Officio*), National Audubon Society
Sue Milburn-Hopwood (*Ex Officio*), Canadian Wildlife Service
Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette (*Ex Officio*), SEMARNAT-Dirección General de Vida Silvestre, Mexico
Cyndi Perry (*Council Coordinator*), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Honorable Sally Jewell (*Chair*), Secretary of the Interior
Honorable Thad Cochran, Senator from Mississippi
Honorable John Dingell, Representative from Michigan
Honorable Mark Pryor, Senator from Arkansas
Honorable Robert Wittman, Representative from Virginia
Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
A. Eric Alvarez (*Secretary*), Chief, Division of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

History

Over the past 23 years, the Act has provided funds to protect and restore more than 27 million acres in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Act was originally passed to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a trilateral agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetland and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds. Since then, the Act has expanded its scope to include the conservation of wetland associated migratory birds listed in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the Partners In Flight Conservation Plans.

More Information

Please visit www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/Mexico/ or contact Ellen Murphy, Program Coordinator; (703) 358-1937, Ellen_Murphy@fws.gov.

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